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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Budget and Finance Committee approves corrective
action plan for the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board**

WINDOW ROCK - The Budget and Finance Committee on Thursday, approved the corrective action plan for the Northern Navajo Nation fair board, after an audit report was conducted and completed by the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General, for the 2012 Northern Navajo Nation Fair.

“One of the main reasons the audit was conducted was because the public requested for it when allegations and concerns were brought up to our committee regarding the fair,” said BFC chair Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

According to the audit report provided by Auditor General Elizabeth Begay, it was found that the fair lacked proper management of funds, event planning, and accountability measures.

“The intent of the CAP is to correct the deficiencies we uncovered during the 2012 NNNF,” said Begay. “The fair board is now responsible for developing, implementing, and the outcome of the CAP.”

The CAP aims to improve the overall management of the fair’s events, namely the Indian market, parade, rodeo, vendor relations, and all financial related expenses such as spending, payouts, vendor fees, application fees, admissions, etc.

BFC member Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ashi, Whiterock) requested clarification as to which parties are responsible for the coordination and management of the fair, and who will assist with the CAP.

“It is hard for me to support this CAP because it is unclear which entities are involved with running the fair and who should be responsible for assisting in the plan, “ said Delegate Simpson.

Begay said the audit focused on the fair events, which were managed by the NNNFB and the Navajo Nation Museum.

“Since the Navajo Nation Museum put money into the [2012] fair and agreed to help manage the fair, they need to be included in incorporating the CAP,” said Delegate Simpson. “They have to take some responsibility for the deficiencies found in the audit report.”

Delegate Bates stated that he was not opposed to the Museum being incorporated into the CAP, and asked how the Museum would assist in carrying out the plan when they are no longer an entity involved with managing the fair.

“I think it is doable for the Museum to assist in the CAP, but we need language to allow for a transition plan which would move all responsibilities in an effective manner from the Museum to the NNNFB,” said BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin).

Delegate Simpson motioned for an amendment to add a new paragraph to the corrective action plan that directs the Navajo Nation Museum to assist the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board in implementing the CAP.

BFC voted 3-0 to pass the amendment.

At the conclusion of the BFC meeting, Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tse Ch’izhi) said, “The Navajo Nation should keep their hands away from running the fairs and leave it up to the fair boards, and allow them to manage/coordinate the fairs.”

BFC voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0150-13.

The Budget and Finance Committee is the final authority for the legislation.

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